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Ministry of
Water, Land
and Air Protection

SERVICE PLAN
2005/06 – 2007/08

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

As the Minister responsible, I am committed to protecting the province's water, land and air in partnership with all British Columbians. Our ministry supports the government's goal of sustained economic competitiveness, and while British Columbians maximize the benefits from our natural resources, we can maintain the quality of our environment and enhance the health of our communities. It is this balance the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection is working toward — all within the realm of a balanced provincial budget. British Columbia's environment is important to this government for this generation and future generations.

The ministry's 2005/06 – 2007/08 Service Plan outlines how we continue to oversee the province's tremendously rich resources and land base. The plan shows how we use sustainable economic development to provide the provincial government with the financial resources to protect, promote and preserve our spectacular natural environment in partnership with other governments, First Nations, communities and citizens. It is this shared stewardship approach that produces results.

Our ministry continues to pursue a principled approach to environmental stewardship, using science to inform decisions and setting standards to achieve goals. This Service Plan guides how we develop policy and regulations and includes clear goals, objectives, targets and performance measures for protecting and enhancing British Columbia's water, land and air. We live in a beautiful province with a clean and healthy environment and recognize that British Columbians are committed to keeping it that way.

The 2005/06 – 2007/08 Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection Service Plan was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared. All material fiscal assumptions and policy decisions as of January 31, 2005 have been considered in preparing the plan and I am accountable for achieving the specific objectives in the plan.

Honourable Bill Barisoff
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection

February 3, 2005

Ministry Overview and Core Business Areas

The mandate of the ministry is to protect and enhance British Columbia's water, land and air in a way that contributes to healthy communities, a sustainable environment, recreational opportunities, and the economic well-being of the province. The ministry relies on five core business areas and more than 900 staff located in all regions of the province to achieve its goals and objectives.

1. Environmental Protection

This core business area is led primarily by the Environmental Protection Division. Key programs and services focus on protecting human health and the environmental quality of water, land and air. Key functions aim at maintaining high environmental standards by: regulating and monitoring industrial and community activities to ensure compliance; promoting sustainable environmental practices in communities through partnerships and education on best management practices; and maintaining a system for air and water quality monitoring and reporting.

2. Environmental Stewardship

This core business area is led primarily by the Environmental Stewardship Division. Key programs and services focus on working with other ministries, industries, communities and governments to establish standards for the use and protection of species and habitats. Key functions focus on shared stewardship and sustainable economic development and are aimed at maintaining and restoring fish and wildlife species and their habitats.

3. Park, Fish and Wildlife Recreation

This core business area is also led primarily by the Environmental Stewardship Division. Key programs and services focus on the provision of recreational opportunities in B.C. parks and protected areas, allocation of natural resources for hunting, angling and wildlife viewing, protecting recreational values and encouraging recreation-linked economic activity. Key functions include enhancing recreational services using an approach informed by science to promote the effective management of fish, wildlife and park resources; providing park, fish and wildlife recreational services and opportunities for British Columbians and others; and establishing legislation, policies and procedures for park, fish and wildlife recreation.

4. Compliance Operations

This core business area provides support to the Environmental Protection Division and the Environmental Stewardship Division. Key programs and services in this business area address a range of compliance-related activities, and include those of the Conservation

Officer Service (COS). This area provides education to help citizens be better stewards, promotes understanding of and compliance with regulatory requirements, conducts inspections and, when needed, works within ministry programs on a range of enforcement options.

5. Executive and Support Services

This core business area is led through the Deputy Minister's Office, Strategic Policy Division and Corporate Services Division. Key programs and services in this business area focus on providing effective planning and legislative support to assist core business areas in achieving their objectives.

Resources allocated to core business areas are presented in the following section.

Resource Summary

The Resource Summary outlines the ministry's estimated expenditures and FTEs by core business area.

Core Business Areas	2004/05 Restated Estimates[1]	2005/06 Estimates	2006/07 Plan	2007/08 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)				
Environmental Protection	44,372	46,325	45,985	45,985
Environmental Stewardship	36,246	38,520	38,520	38,520
Park, Fish and Wildlife Recreation	25,275	26,499	26,109	26,109
Compliance Operations	14,582	16,529	17,029	17,529
Executive and Support Services	22,966	24,048	24,118	24,178
Total[2]	**143,441**	**151,921**	**151,761**	**152,321**
Full-time Equivalents (Direct FTEs)				
Environmental Protection	270	284	286	288
Environmental Stewardship	265	298	298	298
Park, Fish and Wildlife Recreation	143	156	156	156
Compliance Operations	129	138	142	146
Executive and Support Services	117	117	117	117
Total	**924**	**993**	**999**	**1,005**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)				
Environmental Protection	222	322	322	322
Environmental Stewardship[3]	7,206	7,206	42,493	5,390
Park, Fish and Wildlife Recreation[4]	11,215	18,615	15,215	11,215
Compliance Operations	—	57	57	57
Executive and Support Services	2,500	1,250	1,250	1,250
Total	**21,143**	**27,450**	**59,337**	**18,234**

[1] These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the addition of the Compliance Operations core business area and the presentation of the *2005/06 Estimates*. Schedule A, of the *2005/06 Estimates*, presents a detailed reconciliation.

[2] Includes expenditures funded from the Sustainable Environment Fund (SEF).

[3] Environmental Stewardship capital expenditures include funding increases for the potential costs associated with the creation of parks.

[4] Park, Fish and Wildlife Recreation capital expenditures for 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 include a funding allocation for expenditures associated with the reconstruction of the Myra Canyon trestles.

Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission

The Environmental Appeal Board (Board) and Forest Appeals Commission (Commission) are independent, quasi-judicial tribunals jointly administered by the same office. They hear appeals of government decisions under several provincial statutes concerned with natural resource management, environmental quality and public health protection. The Office of the Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission administers the Hospital Appeal Board and Community Care and Assisted Living Appeal Board for the Ministry of Health Services. Although these agencies operate independently from the ministry, their budget vote is the responsibility of the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection. Therefore, they are not considered one of the core business areas accountable to the Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection; but they are included in the Resource Summary of this Service Plan.

Environmental Appeal Board and Forest Appeals Commission	2004/05 Restated Estimates[1]	2005/06 Estimates	2006/07 Plan	2007/08 Plan
Operating Expenses ($000)	1,955	1,955	1,955	1,955
Capital Expenditures (CRF) ($000)	30	15	15	15
Full-time Equivalents (FTE)	11	11	11	11

[1] These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the *2005/06 Estimates*. Schedule A, of the 2005/06 *Estimates*, presents a detailed reconciliation.

Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

The ministry's vision is a clean, healthy and naturally diverse environment that enriches people's lives, now and in the future.

Mission

The ministry provides leadership and support to British Columbians to help them limit the adverse effects of their individual and collective activities on the environment, while fostering economic development and providing recreational opportunities.

Values

The ministry plays a leadership role in managing British Columbia's natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner and in promoting safe, healthy communities. Fulfillment of this role depends on a skilled workforce operating in an innovative and accountable culture, an integrated approach to service delivery and an emphasis on shared stewardship.

- We respect our staff and create a healthy workplace that sets and communicates clear expectations, and supports a culture of staff development, recognition, reward and opportunity.
- We ensure that professional accountability and discipline characterize our behaviour.
- We focus on achieving high environmental standards through a culture of continuous adaptation to change.
- We strive to consistently meet agreed-upon client requirements and deliver our services in a transparent, fair and timely manner.
- We are committed to continuous improvement in the environmental management of the province.

Principles

- A sustainable environment is central for providing economic and social opportunities for all British Columbians and is our legacy for future generations.
- A sustainable environment is a naturally diverse environment.
- All sectors of society are responsible for ensuring a sustainable environment — government, business, industry and citizenry.
- Citizens have the right to safe, healthy communities.

Our values and principles guide us in the attainment of our goals and are reflected in our objectives and the performance measures we have developed to gauge our success in meeting them.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Results

Government Strategic Goals

A strong and vibrant provincial economy.

Safe, healthy communities and a sustainable environment. A supportive social fabric.

Ministry Mission

The ministry provides leadership and support to British Columbians to help them limit the adverse effects of their individual and collective activities on the environment, while fostering economic development and providing recreational opportunities.

Ministry Goals	Ministry Objectives	Performance Measures/Indicators
1. Protect the environment and human health and safety by ensuring clean and safe water, land and air.	1. Streamline standards and improve monitoring, reporting and compliance.	Contaminated sites backlog reduction. Average processing time for permits. Pesticide certification processing time.
	2. Limit air pollution and contribute to B.C.'s efforts to respond to climate change.	Percentage of communities achieving Canada-wide standard for particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). Per capita greenhouse gas emissions relative to other provinces.
	3. Ensure safe, high-quality drinking water and reduce discharges that threaten water quality.	Water quality trends.
	4. Reduce/remove toxins and wastes that contaminate land.	Products with industry-led product stewardship.
	5. Effective response to high-risk environmental emergencies.	Response to environmental emergencies.
2. Maintain and restore the ecological diversity of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.	1. Clear strategies and legislation to protect and restore species and their habitats.	Designations established under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.
	2. Improved use of science for the development of standards and for effective monitoring and reporting.	Number of collaborative management plans with First Nations.
	3. Increased number of partnerships to conserve species and their habitats.	
3. Provide and enhance park, fish and wildlife recreational services and opportunities for British Columbians and others.	1. High-quality park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.	Visitor satisfaction with park and campground facilities and services.
	2. High-quality hunting, angling and wildlife viewing opportunities.	Client satisfaction with fish and wildlife opportunities.
	3. Optimize the economic contribution of park, fish and wildlife recreation.	Number of hunting and angling licences sold. Number of recorded visits to B.C. parks.
4. Provide effective and efficient planning and support for ministry programs.	1. Clear vision, leadership, direction and support for all ministry programs.	Regulatory reform targets.
	2. Efficient program management, fiscal responsibility and client service.	Percentage of staff with an Employee Performance and Development Plan (EPDP).

The diagram above displays the linkage between the government's strategic goals and the ministry's mission, goals, objectives and performance measures. This section presents the ministry's goals and outlines how specific objectives, strategies, performance measures and targets are helping to achieve them.[1]

Goal 1: *Protect the environment and human health and safety by ensuring clean and safe water, land and air.*

Clean and safe water, land and air support healthy communities and the economy in British Columbia. This goal reflects the ministry's commitment to developing results-based environmental standards and workable regulation, protecting air and water quality and enabling the removal of contaminants from land.

Core Business Area: *Environmental Protection.*

Objective 1: *Streamline standards and improve monitoring, reporting and compliance.*

The ministry has been shifting from a prescriptive approach to environmental regulation to a results-based approach informed by science and is streamlining standards and processes to remove unnecessary impediments to business and foster economic development. The ministry is working to change some of its processes, clarify regulatory requirements and improve the use of science for informing decision-making. Key strategies include: revising appropriate legislation and regulatory requirements to increase flexibility in methods used to achieve environmental standards; updating scientific information used to develop best practices, guidelines and standards for environmental protection; and improving systems used to monitor the achievement of air and water quality standards.

Performance Measures:

Reducing the backlog of contaminated sites applications: The ministry's ongoing efforts to eliminate the backlog will be facilitated by recent legislative and regulatory changes. It is important to monitor progress in eliminating the backlog because it is likely that the delay in providing decisions for the applications, which are primarily for low- and medium-risk situations, is preventing some development from proceeding.

Average processing time for permits: The ministry is streamlining, where practical, the regulatory requirements perceived as an impediment to economic development and diversification of regional economies in British Columbia. This will result in consistent processing standards, encourage greater compliance and enforcement and result in lower

[1] Notes on data completeness, reliability and methodology for each Service Plan performance measure are included in the ministry's Annual Service Plan Report, which is available at http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/annualreports/wlap/wlap_appendixd.htm .

costs to government and industry. This performance measure assesses average processing time for issuing similar permits in British Columbia compared to Alberta. Efforts to align environmental management approaches between British Columbia and Alberta are currently underway. Base data for this measure will be established through this joint harmonization effort and reported in the ministry's Annual Service Plan Report.

Processing time for pesticide certification: Applicators and dispensers of pesticides are required to be certified and candidates must pass the appropriate examination. In conjunction with the development of the new *Integrated Pest Management Act*, the process for examination was reviewed and a streamlined approach introduced. The target is to reduce the time people must wait to receive examination results.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Reduction in backlog of applications for medium- and low-risk contaminated sites.	Approximately 150 (2003/04)	Eliminate 95% of backlog of non-high risk applications by March 31, 2006.	Eliminate balance of the backlog.	Maintain zero backlog.
Average processing time for issuing permits, compared to Alberta.	To be determined. Target: Match Alberta 90% of the time by March 31/05.	Continue to match Alberta 90% of the time.		
Turnaround time for pesticide certification.	6 weeks (2003/04) Target: 2 weeks (2004/05)	2 weeks	2 weeks	2 weeks

Objective 2: *Limit air pollution and contribute to British Columbia's efforts to respond to climate change.*

The ministry is undertaking action in a number of areas related to air quality issues in the province and the climate change issue worldwide. Key strategies include: working in partnership with other levels of government to support the development of a climate change strategy to ensure the province's interests are addressed in a national strategy and encouraging incorporation of environmental technology and clean energy into government and other operations.

Performance Measures:

Particulate matter: The ministry's efforts toward achieving this objective include addressing province-wide and airshed-specific air quality issues. The outdoor air contaminant of most

concern in British Columbia, from a human health perspective, is particulate matter (PM). The percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standard for $PM_{2.5}$ has been selected as the performance measure.

Greenhouse gas emissions: To assess performance in contributing to addressing the global climate change issue, the ministry is using an outcome measure of per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to other provinces. A per capita measure accounts for the largely unknown effects of future national GHG commitments and clean technology development that are likely to apply to all provinces, and hence should reflect the effect of British Columbia's actions relative to other provinces.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Percentage of monitored communities achieving the Canada-wide standard (CWS) quality objective of amount of fine particulates in the air under 2.5 microns per cubic metre ($PM_{2.5}$).	93% of communities (13 out of 14) achieve the CWS where $PM_{2.5}$ is monitored and sufficient data are available to generate the statistic (based on 2003 data).	By 2005/06, 100% of communities monitored achieve, or continue to achieve, the CWS for $PM_{2.5}$.		
Per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to other provinces.	3rd lowest emissions in Canada (based on 2001 data)	Maintain or improve on ranking.		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information:

For $PM_{2.5}$ measure: Comparable data for previous years are 100% in 2000 (7 out of 7 communities), 90% in 2001 (9 out of 10 communities), and 91% in 2002 (10 out of 11 communities). (Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.)

For GHG measure: Based on 2001 data, British Columbia currently ranks third in Canada after Prince Edward Island and Quebec in GHG emissions per capita. (Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection Climate Change Section.)

Objective 3: *Ensure safe, high-quality drinking water and reduce discharges that threaten water quality.*

The ministry is continuing to protect water quality and ensure clean and safe water. The ministry is working on activities that protect surface water and ground water from health-threatening contamination by implementing appropriate ground water regulations.

Performance Measure:

Water quality trends: This is an outcome measure of surface water quality in 30 water bodies monitored under a federal/provincial agreement. The measure monitors trends based on the presence of environmentally significant variables, such as metals and nutrients. Tracking such trends will indicate the cumulative effect of multi-agency land use activities and resource management activities in source watersheds. This information helps inform how performance standards, authorizations and further monitoring activities are established for water bodies in the province.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
The trends in environmentally significant variables, such as metals and nutrients, that indicate the health of water for 30 water bodies monitored under federal/provincial agreement.	90% of the monitoring stations in the 30 water bodies have stable or improving water quality trends (in 2003/04).	Maintain or improve water quality trends for water bodies monitored under the federal/provincial agreement by 2006.		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: In addition to the 30 stations funded under the Canada – BC Water Quality Monitoring Agreement, the ministry uses water quality data from approximately 150 other community-based stations on other water bodies. This number compares with Ontario's 200 stations for monitoring the water quality of streams and rivers. (Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. 2000. Research Branch. *The Health of Our Water: Toward Sustainable Agriculture in Canada.*)

Objective 4: *Reduce/remove toxins and wastes that contaminate land.*

To protect the environment and ensure clean and safe land, the ministry is developing a business strategy that enables producers to remove high-risk components from the waste stream and expand the number of products that can be recycled.

Performance Measure:

Industry-led product stewardship: To track its progress toward achieving this objective, the ministry is using a performance measure of the number of product categories with industry-led product stewardship. Many provincial and international jurisdictions are working to find ways to expand producer responsibility for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products. Since efforts tend to focus on reducing waste from product categories that pose relatively high risks to the environment (e.g., paint and used oil), this measure should be a

reasonable indicator of success in attaining the objective. Performance targets are based on the lead time for industry-led product stewardship programs to be developed for additional product categories. In time, the ministry may move to an outcome-based measure such as product recovery rate.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Number of product categories that pose a high risk to the environment with industry-led product stewardship.	7 (as of March 31/04)	1 additional product category	1 additional product category	1 additional product category

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: British Columbia is a recognized leader in industry-led product stewardship with seven product categories (paint, used oil products, beverage containers and four other post-consumer residuals). Many other provinces have only one or two products managed through industry-led product stewardship. (Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.)

Objective 5: *Effective response to high-risk environmental emergencies.*

Responding to environmental emergencies is an area in which the ministry is implementing its shift to focusing on high-risk issues. This objective pertains to all components of the goal, encompassing water, land and air. Key strategies include: responding effectively to high-risk environmental emergencies in conjunction with other ministries, local governments and industry, and expanding industry responsibility for response to and clean-up of spills.

Performance Measure:

Response to environmental emergencies: The ministry is using an outcome measure of the percentage of high-risk environmental emergencies responded to effectively to assess its progress toward achieving the objective. The measure focuses on responses to environmental spills. Effectiveness considers several issues, including identifying the spills that require attendance by ministry staff, timeliness of response, addressing the technical issues at the site, effecting proper response by parties responsible for the spill or by others when there is no responsible party, and ensuring appropriate clean-up. The ministry made considerable progress toward shifting the responsibility for low- and medium-risk spills to industry, local governments and other partners. The responsible party addressing a low- or medium-risk spill will report how impacts were mitigated to enable further monitoring and evaluation. The ministry is able to contract for the resources required to respond effectively to high-risk spills and bill the costs to the responsible parties.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Percentage of high-risk environmental emergencies responded to effectively.	100% (in 2003/04)	100%	100%	100%

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: The proportion of spills responded to by the ministry has declined from nearly 20% before the ministry's transition to focusing on high-risk spills to less than 10% currently. The ministry is working with local governments, industry, emergency response organizations (such as the Canadian Coast Guard), and other partners to improve the effectiveness of the response to all spills. (Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.)

Goal 2: *Maintain and restore the ecological diversity of fish and wildlife species and their habitats.*

Maintaining and restoring ecological diversity, fish and wildlife species and natural habitats provides environmental, social and economic benefits for all British Columbians. This goal focuses on the development of effective legislation and the improved use of science, and promotes a shared-stewardship approach involving First Nations, other government agencies, stakeholders and communities within British Columbia.

Core Business Area: *Environmental Stewardship.*

Objective 1: *Clear strategies and legislation to protect and restore species and their habitats.*

The ministry continues efforts to focus on environmental outcomes by providing clear direction and certainty for people who must comply with ministry regulations. To achieve this, the ministry develops standards informed by science and clearly identifies expectations and required results. Key strategies include: focusing on reducing regulatory requirements to implement results-based stewardship and providing clear guidelines and standards for appropriate protection and conservation of species and habitats on Crown land outside the protected area system.

Performance Measure:

Designations under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*: The ministry is piloting an output measure to demonstrate its progress in establishing designations and objectives for fisheries, wildlife and water quality under the authority of the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA). This measure will indicate the ministry's progress in setting results-based environmental standards informed by science under the FRPA, which will be critical to attaining the desired environmental outcomes. To adequately demonstrate progress, two types of data are being collected: (1) the number of designations and objectives established, and (2) the area of forest land base for which designations and objectives have been established. Initially, information is provided for designations of wildlife habitat areas (WHA) and ungulate winter ranges (UWR). Performance targets are based on expected levels of funding from the Forest Investment Account and are provided only for the number of designations because the size of the areas will depend on the species. Data and targets for other areas, such as significant community and fisheries watersheds, may be provided as data become available.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Ministry progress in establishing designations and objectives for fisheries, wildlife and water quality using statutory authorities under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.	275 WHA (652,224 ha); 24 UWR (1,645,966 ha) as of December 31/04.	An additional 30 WHA and 15 UWR designations approved per year.		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: As of March 31/04, there were 160 wildlife habitat area (WHA) designations approved (covering 49,120 ha) and 15 ungulate winter range (UWR) designations approved (covering 913,462 ha). (Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.)

Objective 2: *Improved use of science for the development of standards and for effective monitoring and reporting.*

The application of the best available science is a key part of developing environmental standards and monitoring and reporting on their implementation and effectiveness. The ministry is focusing on a range of strategies that include: improving access to scientific information to inform and implement strategies and actions for addressing issues associated with biological diversity; tracking species and habitats and their responses to management actions; developing standards and an assessment process for the protection of fish habitat in urban areas; and working with partners to develop and implement environmental standards for the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.

In previous service plans, the ministry used the performance measure of the percentage of known native species that are threatened or endangered in the province regarding species at risk to track progress in achieving this objective. As reported in the ministry's 2003/04 Annual Service Plan Report, however, new data relating to this measure will not be available until 2006. Hence, the measure has been removed from the ministry's service plan.

Under the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk (1997), provincial, territorial and federal wildlife agencies committed to an ongoing process for wild species assessment and monitoring. Tremendous progress has been made in recent years to compile information on wild species, but considerable challenges remain to expand, improve and update this information. A key role of ministry regional and headquarters staff in working toward the desired outcome of protecting species at risk is to put recovery planning processes in place in partnership with the federal government, First Nations, local governments, industry and other stakeholders.

As of November 2004, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has listed 170 species in British Columbia. The province is responsible for leading or co-leading the recovery planning processes for 127 of these species. Recovery planning is underway for all extirpated, endangered and threatened species for which the province has responsibility.

Objective 3: *Increased number of partnerships to conserve species and their habitats.*

Partnerships will be a crucial mechanism in the ministry's shift from being sole protector of the environment to promoting a shared stewardship approach. Key strategies include: working to establish and maintain relationships with First Nations, communities, academia, environmental organizations and industry to undertake activities to conserve species and habitats, and providing standards, guidelines and best management practices to private landowners to develop and implement sustainable stewardship practices.

Performance Measure:

Number of partnerships: Initially, the ministry is monitoring its progress in forging partnerships by focusing on the specific area of establishing collaborative management plans with First Nations. This is an important type of partnership through which the ministry is providing a significant role to First Nations for making recommendations for protected area management.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Number of collaborative management plans with First Nations.	14 plans in place (in 2003/04)	Review the current process and establish new targets for the development and implementation of collaborative management plans.	Establish new targets.	

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: The ministry has several other stewardship partnerships in place and is working to develop more. It is difficult to identify an aggregate measure of the extent to which all established partnerships are appropriate or of how effectively they produce the intended results and contribute to desired outcomes. The ministry may consider evaluating the effectiveness of individual partnerships to monitor progress.

Goal 3: *Provide and enhance park, fish and wildlife recreational services and opportunities for British Columbians and others.*

Park, fish and wildlife recreation contribute significantly to the provincial economy. To help ensure that B.C.'s parks continue to showcase the natural beauty of the province and attract visitors, this goal focuses on the provision of high-quality outdoor recreational experiences and services to users of the provincial parks system and on the optimization of the economic contribution of outdoor recreation.

Core Business Area: *Park, Fish and Wildlife Recreation.*

Objective 1: *High-quality park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.*

The ministry is working to provide high-quality client service in provincial parks. Key strategies include: implementing a new management model for provincial parks to increase visitation through day use and camping; supporting the implementation of the provincial resort strategy; initiating further opportunities for delivery of appropriate park recreational services through partnerships with commercial operators; and monitoring park operations to ensure service standards and facilities are maintained and conservation and habitat-restoration priorities are met.

Performance Measure:

Visitor satisfaction with park and campground facilities and services: The ministry provides campground facilities and services in provincial parks throughout the province. To assess client satisfaction, the ministry has conducted an annual satisfaction survey of visitors to campgrounds in the provincial parks system since 1985. This important outcome measure enables BC Parks to capture campers' views about the quality of services being provided in campgrounds and to identify priorities for service and facility improvements.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual/Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Visitor satisfaction with park and campground facilities and services.	80% (preliminary results for 2004/05)	Maintain or improve based on a 5-year rolling average.		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: The performance result of 80% is similar to the results of the past five years. (Source: Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.)

Objective 2: *High-quality hunting, angling and wildlife viewing opportunities.*

The ministry aims to provide high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities through a range of strategies that include: working with the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC to cooperatively manage stocking fish in lakes and streams and undertake conservation activities; implementing new initiatives to enhance and diversify fish and wildlife recreation; increasing the involvement of First Nations and other users in allocating natural resources for hunting, angling and wildlife viewing opportunities; and providing hunting and angling authorizations based on allowable harvest levels informed by science to ensure sustainability of the resources.

Performance Measure:

Client satisfaction with fish and wildlife opportunities: This outcome measure will assess the ministry's effectiveness in providing British Columbians and visitors with fish and wildlife opportunities (e.g., hunting, angling and wildlife viewing). The ministry intends to use a survey of hunters and anglers to acquire this data.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Client satisfaction with fish and wildlife opportunities.	Hunters: 80% (preliminary data for 2004). Anglers: Data are not yet available.	The ministry intends to acquire the necessary data for this performance measure through a regular survey of hunters and anglers. The survey method is under development.		

Objective 3: *Optimize the economic contribution of park, fish and wildlife recreation.*

Economic contribution is an important factor that the ministry considers when determining the level and types of park, fish and wildlife recreational services and opportunities to provide.[2] To optimize the economic contribution of outdoor recreation, the ministry is promoting participation in recreational opportunities; working with First Nations, governments and communities to develop parks and special tourism destinations; providing unique hunting and fishing opportunities to enhance regional tourism; and exploring electronic service delivery to improve timeliness of licensing, authorization and permitting processes for fish, wildlife and park recreation.

[2] Land and Water British Columbia (LWBC), a Crown corporation, has a mandate related to that of the ministry. LWBC administers issues related to land and water allocation, while the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection has responsibility for issues related to land and water quality.

Performance Measures:

Hunting and angling licences sold: The ministry is reporting the number of basic hunting and angling licences sold in a particular year. This measure reflects the actual number of hunters and anglers benefiting from these recreational opportunities in British Columbia.

Park visitors: A measure of the economic contribution of parks is being provided through an estimate of the number of park visitors (measured as the number of recorded visits to provincial parks).

Changes in the numbers of hunters, anglers and park visitors provide a reasonable indication of changes in the economic contribution resulting from their activities. However, changes in the number of participants will become a less accurate indicator of changes in the economic contribution of park, fish and wildlife recreation as the types of experiences provided become more varied. It is anticipated that the development of key parks and special tourism destinations and the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will offer new opportunities for participation in and enjoyment of outdoor recreation. Work may be undertaken to more directly estimate the economic contribution to the provincial economy.

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Number of basic hunting and angling licences sold.	Hunting: 81,368 resident; 5,785 non-resident (in 2003/04). Angling: 252,867 resident; 69,398 non-resident (in 2003/04).	Maintain or increase the number of basic hunting and angling licences sold.		
Number of recorded visits to B.C. parks.	Approximately 17.4 million (in 2003/04)	Increase the number of recorded visits to B.C. parks by 20% by 2010.		

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: There is a global decline in the number of hunters and anglers, with the decline more pronounced for hunters. This is considered to be due to a combination of demographics, urbanization and changing preferences. In the U.S., between 1996 and 2001, the number of all anglers declined 3%, hunters declined by 7%, and the total number of wildlife watchers decreased by 13%. (Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

Goal 4: *Provide effective and efficient planning and support for ministry programs.*

The ministry provides corporate leadership and services for ministry programs. Support of government initiatives, fiscal responsibility and efficient client service are ministry priorities reflected by this goal.

Core Business Areas: *Executive and Support Services.*
Compliance Operations.

Objective 1: *Clear vision, leadership, direction and support for all ministry programs.*

The ministry strives to ensure that its resources are used to address high-priority issues in the most effective and efficient ways. Key strategies include: establishing strong strategic policy leadership that focuses on broad directions; undertaking strategic planning and providing leadership to staff that ensures a coordinated and integrated approach to ministry initiatives in all regions of the province; providing leadership in intergovernmental harmonization of regulatory requirements and streamlining of processes through work with the federal government, provinces and territories; eliminating, revising or developing new legislation as appropriate; and managing the compliance and enforcement operations of the ministry.

Performance Measure:

Regulatory reform: As part of its *New Era* commitments, the government pledged to reduce regulations by 33% overall by June 4, 2004. This was the initial step in reducing the economic burden of prescriptive regulations for industry and other stakeholders. To support this initiative, the ministry had a three-year plan that reduced its regulations by 38% as of June 4, 2004. The next phase of regulatory reform has been identified and related performance targets have been established to continue to monitor ministry progress toward regulatory reform.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Progress toward delivery of a three-year regulatory reform plan.	Ministry's regulatory count: 12,410 (as of June 2004)	Zero per cent net increase in regulatory count	Zero per cent net increase in regulatory count	Zero per cent net increase in regulatory count

Objective 2: *Efficient program management, fiscal responsibility and client service.*

Managing programs efficiently, meeting fiscal targets and promoting client satisfaction enable the ministry to have resources available for more initiatives and to make greater progress in delivering its mandate. Key strategies include: implementing a comprehensive performance management framework, including effective monitoring, reporting and performance measurement; assessing risk in decision making;[3] implementing a human resource strategy that acknowledges changing workforce requirements, fosters healthy and knowledgeable staff and supports achievement of business objectives; ensuring service requirements and fiscal targets are aligned; identifying methods to reduce the costs incurred by those who must meet environmental standards, reduce conflicts and eliminate service backlogs, and implementing an effective information system strategy.

Performance Measure:

Employee performance and development plans: Achieving this objective requires ministry staff to focus on developing key performance and development goals that will enable them to contribute to accomplishing ministry objectives articulated in the Service Plan. A key initiative for ensuring that this occurs is a ministry requirement for all staff to have an Employee Performance and Development Plan (EPDP). This plan identifies what work an employee is accountable for and makes clear links to the ministry's Service Plan. As the EPDP initiative is being implemented, the ministry is using an output measure to indicate the percentage of staff with an EPDP.

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual / Base	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target	2007/08 Target
Percentage of staff with an Employee Performance and Development Plan.	100%	100%	100%	100%

Benchmark/Explanatory Information: The ministry is considering that eventually it will move to an outcome measure that shows the extent to which work performed and staff development are consistent with the EPDPs and thus with meeting Service Plan commitments.

[3] The performance measure "progress in implementing risk management processes throughout the ministry" that was in the ministry's 2004/05 – 2006/07 Service Plan is not included in this plan. The ministry is attempting to reduce its performance measures to focus on a smaller number of key outcome measures. Risk management will continue to be done as a normal part of the ministry's business operations. For an overview of risk management in the ministry, please see the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection's 2003/04 Annual Service Plan Report at: http://www.bcbudget.gov.bc.ca/annualreports/wlap/wlap.pdf.

Related Initiatives and Planning Processes

Deregulation and Regulatory Reform

The ministry has undertaken significant deregulation and regulatory reform initiatives that aim to ensure British Columbia's regulatory climate enables economic development and recreational activities while maintaining environmental standards. The ministry's achievements to date in the area of deregulation are described above under Goal 4.

Regulatory reform has been and will continue to be undertaken under each core business area as the ministry pursues its shift from prescriptive to results-based approaches to regulation. For example, the enactment of new legislation (e.g., the *Integrated Pest Management Act*; the *Environmental Management Act*) and the amendment of existing statutes (e.g., the *Water, Land and Air Protection Statutes Amendment Act*; the *Flood Hazard Statutes Amendment Act*) are intended to reduce regulatory burden, clarify responsibilities and make more efficient use of ministry resources. Another three-year plan for regulatory reform has been introduced by the government. Over the next three years, the ministry will continue its review of legislation and regulations (e.g., the *Wildlife Act*; the *Park Act*) and measure its progress in delivering this plan using the new targets set in the government's regulatory reform plan. (See Goal 4 above for the new performance measure.)

Overviews of Human Resource Plan and Information Resource Management Plan

Human Resource Plan

The ministry's Human Resource Plan (its people strategy) outlines the key human resource objectives for the coming year and looks forward to future needs. This plan supports the achievement of the ministry's Service Plan goals and objectives and is aligned with the government-wide Corporate Human Resource Plan. An overview of the ministry's Human Resource Plan is available on the ministry's website at:
http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sp2005/hrmp.html or
http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sp2005/hrmp.pdf.

Information Resource Management Plan

The ministry's Information Resource Management Plan identifies the alignment between information management, information technology and the business requirements of the ministry. An overview of the ministry's Information Resource Management Plan is available on the ministry's website at: http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sp2005/irmp.html or http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/sp2005/irmp.pdf.